

I came to Bridge of Hope, new to Kansas City, Kansas, in a drug counseling program, with my two children in state custody.

I attended a Sunday morning service where I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and a sense of belonging amongst the other members. I attended Bible study and soon a women's retreat to Nebraska followed.

The next Sunday, I went to the women's Sunday School, where I was given a Recovery Bible. As I studied that Bible, I was reminded that GOD wants a special relationship with me and He wants me to depend on the Holy Spirit—the same Spirit I felt in the church on my first visit to Bridge of Hope.

The Holy Spirit prepares and prompts an environment at Bridge of Hope, a feeling I can grow and learn about God and His purpose for my life—to love one another and serve God by reaching out in the community.

As a child, I was a victim of sexual abuse that carried into my adult life, but God was by my side.

God prevented me from having a stroke or being in a coma while my blood sugar levels were up to 700.

God reunited me with my mother, father, and other relatives after being isolated for over 15 years.

Being under Bridge of Hope's leadership, I have learned that God's will for me is good, pleasing, and perfect (Romans 12:1-2) and that as I yield my life and will to GOD, He will renew my heart and mind.

John 15:26-27 tells me that GOD's word is the truth, that I am accountable to other believers and that I am to conform to the image of Jesus. As the Spirit of Truth, He gives wisdom to help us examine our lives. He helps us see past our denial and self-deception. The Holy Spirit will guide me to an accurate perception of myself—which is very convicting.

As the teaching at Bridge of Hope inspires me to grow and act on GOD's word, my faith gets stronger as I read and hear His word.

Now I've been in recovery over 9 months, my children have returned home, my health is on the right track, I have found a GOD-based church home, and I am returning to college to complete my social work degree so I can fulfill one of God's call in my life—to go out to the community.

I now have a solid support based on the Love from God, my family, and my church family and I am reminded that God can deliver and sustain me in the worst circumstances when I focus on Him and all He has done for me. He gives me strength and courage to live and have joy even in times of tribulation.